

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129263

FOLLOWING REPEAT COLOMBO 1685 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS BELGRADE
CAIRO CANBERRA DACCA DAKAR DAR ES SALAAM GEORGETOWN KINGSTON LUSAKA
LONDON NEW DELHI OTTAWA RABAT SEOUL KSUN AND WELLINGTON 27 MAY 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 1685

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: UNGA, PFOR, CE

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER: UNGA AND
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT

REF: (A) COLOMBO 294 (NOTAL; (B) STATE 120300 (NOT
L)

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER BANDARANIKE TOLD ME
SHE IS PLEASED WITH RESULTS COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT MEETING IN JAMAICA AND BELIVES MODERATE,
STEP-BY-STP APPROACH IS PREFERABLE TO CONFRONTATIONAL
POLITICS IN ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING
COUNTIRES. AT JAMAICA SHE FOUND THAT NUMBER OF
HER COLLEAGUES SHARED HER CONCERN ABOUTALGERIA'S
HEAVY-HANDEDNESS WITHIN NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, OUT
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SHE ADMITTED THAT TO DATE MODERATES HAD NOT
EFFECTIVELY CHALLENGED ALGERIAN LEADERSHIP. RE-
CALLING ALGERIAN'S STEAM-ROLLER TACTICS AT LAST
NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT MEETING, SHE HOPED TO WORK

WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP FORM OF COUNTER-STRATEGY BEFORE NEXT YEAR'S SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. THIS WILL INCLUDE PROCEDURES TO INSURE THAT RESOLUTIONS ARE RECEIVED WELL IN ADVANCE SO THAT THEY CAN BE GIVEN ADEQUATE STUDY BY PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MY MAY 26 CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE, I ASKED ABOUT HER RECENT TRIP ABROAD, FOCUSING MY QUESTIONS PRIMARILY ON COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN JAMAICA AS IT MIGHT RELATE TO UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AND NEXT YEAR'S NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT.

3. PM SAID THAT SHE THOUGHT KINGSTON MEETING HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL. FOUR DEVELOPED MEMBERS OF COMMONWEALTH-- U.K., CANADA, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND -- HAD DEMONSTRATED SINCERE CONCERN FOR PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING MEMBER COUNTRIES AND HAD MADE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN EFFORT RELIEVE THEIR PROBLEMS. TO THIS EXTENT, PRIME MINISTER WILSON WAS MUCH MORE SENSITIVE TO LDC'S CONCERNS THAN HEATH HAD BEEN. PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS HOW BEST TO DEAL WITH COMMODITY PRICES WAS POSITIVE STEP FORWARD AND INDICATED EFFECTIVE DIALOGUE WITHIN COMMONWEALTH COULD PROCEED ON THIS AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES.

4. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER IT SEEMED TO ME THAT GENERAL APPROACH ADOPTED AT KINGSTON WAS A SLUND ONE AND REFLECTED USG'S VIEW THAT DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE, POSITIVE DIALOGUE ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. AS SHE KNEW, USG HAD BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED AT TENDENCY OF LDC'S TO ENGAGE IN CONFRONTATIONAL POLITICS
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AND TO PASS LOPSIDED RESOLUTIONS, OFTEN DIRECTED AT UNITED STATES, WHICH WERE STRONG ON POLEMICS AND RHETORIC, BUT HAD NO CHANCE OF BEING IMPLEMENTED. BECAUSE OF THIS TREND AT 6TH UNGA SPECIAL SESSION AND LAST YEAR'S UNGA, AND WITHIN NON-ALIGNED FORUMS, BASIC SUPPORT IN UNITED STATES TOWARD UN HAD BEEN ERODED.

5. DRAWING ON RETEL AND STATE 112992, I EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY WOULD BE TALKING IN GREATER DETAIL WITH SRI LANKA FOREIGN OFFICE REGARDING FORTHCOMING 7TH UNGA SPECIAL SESSION. HOWEVER,

I WANTED PM TO KNOW THAT ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT CONSIDER UNGA AN APPROPRIATE ARENA FOR NEGOTIATIONS OF DETAILED ECONOMIC ISSUES, NONETHESS SPECIAL SESSION COULD BE OF VALUE IF MEMBERS COULD FOCUS ON CERTAIN CRITICAL PROBLEMS AND PRIORITIES AND SEEK TO DEVELOP AT LEAST BROAD CONSENSUS AS TO HOW FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE MADE IN OTHER FORUMS. FOR EXAMPLE, ON QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITIES, SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD NOTED IN RECENT KANSAS CITY SPEECH THAT WE WERE PROPOSED TO DISCUSS NEW ARRANGEMENTS RE SPECIFIC COMMODITIES ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. WE WERE NOT IN PRINCIPLE OPPOSED TO CONSIDERING POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES INSITUATIONS IN WHICH PRODUCER AND CONSUMER INTERESTS WERE REPRESENTED AND WHERE THERE SEEMS REASONABLE PROSPECT TO WORK OUT SOME TYPE OF EQUITABLE AGREEMENT.

6. PM AGREED THAT CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH TO THESE PROBLEMS MADE SENSE AND THIS WAS GENERAL VIEW OF OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES. SINCE 24 OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AT KINGSTON WERE ALSO SCHEDULED TO ATTEND NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO NEXT YEAR, SHE HAD HAD EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY IN JAMAICA TO DISCUSS SOME OF THESE ISSUES WITH THEM, AS WELL AS IMPROVED COORDINATION AMONG NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES. FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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EXAMPLE, SHE AND SOME OF THE OTHERS
T
KINGSTON WERE CONCERNED THAT AFRICANS WITHIN OAU AND ARABS WITHIN ARAB LEAGUE WERE PASSING RESOLUTIONS AND TAKING OTHER ACTIONS ON NON-ALIGNED MATTERS WITHOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP. TO MEET THIS PROBLEM, SHE HAD EXPLORED POSSIBILITY OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR NON-AFRICAN AND NON-ARAB LEAGUE MEMBERS OF NON-ALIGNED GROUP IN OAU AND ARAB LEAGUE RESPECTIVELY, BUT HAD CONCLUDED THIS WAS NOT PRACTICABLE. SHE HAD, HOWEVER, TENTATIVELY WORKED OUT ARRANGEMENT AT KINGSTON UNDER WHICH TANZANIA WOULD REPORT TO OTHER NON-ALIGNED MEMBERS REGARDING MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITHIN OAU COUNCILS. SHE WAS ALSO CONSIDERING APPROACHING EGYPTIANS TO DETERMINE WHETHER EGYPT WOULD ASSUME SIMILAR RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN ARAB LEAGUE. I COMMENTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN EARLIER RUMORS THAT ALGERIANS WERE APPROACHING OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES WITH VIEW TO FINDING ANOTHER VENUE,

RATHER THAN COLOMBO, FOR NEXT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. PM ACKNOWLEDGED SHE HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH A MANEUVER BUT FOUND FIRM SUPPORT IN JAMAICA FOR COLOMBO SITE.

7. I RECALLED THAT PM HAD TOLD ME EARLIER THAT SHE HAD BEEN DISTURBED AT ALGERIAN HANDLING OF L ST NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT (REFTEL A), BUT I NOTED THAT ALGERIAN STEAM-ROLLER TACTICS APPARENTLY STILL CONTINUED. SHE AGREED THIS WAS CASE, BUT SAID THAT SHE HAD FOUND THAT NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN KINGSTON WERE EQUALLY OPPOSED TO THESE TACTICS. TANZANIA, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD BEEN CONCERNED BECAUSE OF APPARENT EFFORT BY ALGERIA TO UPSET REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WHICH TANZANIA AND OTHERS WERE WORKING OUT IN SOUTH AFRICA REGION.

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8. I OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH NUMBER OF MODERATE COUNTRIES FELT AS SHE DID, NO ONE APPEARED PREPARED TO CHALLENGE ALGERIANS WHO CONTINUED EXERCISE DISPROPORTIONATE INFLUENCE WITHIN NON-ALIGNED GROUP. PM REPLIED THAT ONE OF THE REASONS WAS THAT ALGERIA, AS HOST OF LAST SUMMIT MEETING, CONTINUED TO CONTROL NON-ALIGNED MACHINERY, PARTICULARLY COORDINATION BUREAU IN NEW YORK WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN CONTINUITY BETWEEN ALGERIA SUMMIT AND NEXT YEAR'S COLOMBO SUMMIT. SRI LANKA AND 12 OTHER COUNTRIES IN ADDITION TO ALGERIA WERE MEMBERS OF THIS BUREAU, BUT ALGERIA DOMINATED ITS ACTIVITIES. FOR EXAMPLE, DATES FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING OF BUREAU IN HAVANA WERE CHANGED THREE TIMES, LARGELY TO MEET PERSONAL CONVENIENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER BOUDEFELIK. FURTHERMORE, ALGERIANS IN NON-ALIGNED BUREAU HAD PROPOSED THAT NORTH KOREA BE ADMITTED AS PARTICIPANT IN NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO. SHE HAD EXPRESSED CATEGORICAL VIEW THAT THIS WAS NOT DECISION WHICH SHOULD BE MADE BY COORDINATION BUREAU, BUT RATHER WAS DECISION FOR NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN LIMA.

9. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THAT HAVANA NON-ALIGNED MEETING REPRESENTED JUST TYPE OF

IRRITATING RHETORIC-RINGING SESSION THAT
CAUSED US GREATEST PROBLEMS. POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS,
OFTEN TARGETED PRIMARILY ON UNITED STATES, HAD
BEEN DRAFTED BY SMALL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES AND
FOISTED UPON OTHER PARTICIPANTS WHO APPARENTLY
WENT ALONG AND ENDORSED RESOLUTIONS WITH LITTLE
QUESTION. THIS CONNECTION, WE WERE DISAPPOINTED
SRI LANKA HAD ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH DECLARATION
INDICATING SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICAN NATIONAL
LIBERATION MOVEMENT. PRIMARY POLITICAL ISSUE
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IN PUERTO RICO WAS BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED
CONTINUE COMMONWEALTH STATUS AND THOSE WHO
WANTED STATEHOOD, WITH ONLY VERY SMALL FRINGE
INTERESTED IN INDEPENDENCE. USG NATURALLY
TOOK OFFENSE AT HAVANA DECLARATIONS OF THIS
TYPE, JUST AS SRI LANKA WOULD BE HIGHLY IRRITATED
IF FOREIGN COUNTRIES SHOULD EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR
SOME TAMIL FRINGE GROUP WHICH FAVORED INDE-
PENDENCE OF TAMIL AREAS OF SRI LANKA.

10. PRIME MINISTER EVINced SURPRISE THAT
DECLARATIONS OF THIS CHARACTER HAD BEEN
PASSED AND RE-AFFIRMED HER DESIRE TO TRY TO
AVOID SIMILAR SITUATION ARISING AT COLOMBO.
HER PRESENT PLAN WAS TO ADVISE ALL PARTICIPANTS
THAT PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED
AT LEAST TWO MONTHS IN ADVANCE, RECOGNIZING
THAT HOPEFULLY THEY WOULD BE RECEIVED AT
LEAST ONE MONTH AHEAD. ADDITIONALLY, SHE HOPED
OFFICIALS WOULD BE ABLE TO MEET IN ADVANCE OF
MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT TO SEEK
TO WORK OUT SOME CONSENSUS TO PRESENT TO
PRINCIPALS.

11. I TOLD PRIME MINISTER WISHED HER ALL
THE BEST IN THIS ENDEAVOR, BUT MY OBSERVATION
WAS THAT SRI LANKA AND OTHER MODERATES HAD
NOT YET WORKED OUT EFFECTIVE STRATEGY TO
COUNTER ALGERIANS. SHE AGREED THEY HAD NOT
BUT REITERATED THAT SHE HAD DETECTED SERIOUS
MISGIVINGS RE ALGERIAN ACTIONS FROM A NUMBER
OF HER COUNTERPARTS, INCLUDING INDIRA GANDHI,
TITO, AND KAUNDA. ON OASIS HER DISCUSSIONS DURING HER
RECENT TRIP, SHE PLANNED MEET WITH HER OFFICIALS
TO TRY TO WORK OUT SOME TYPE OF PROCEDURES TO
BETTER COORDINATE POSITION OF MODERATES.

12. COMMENT: FOR COMMENTS TO DEPT SEE
SEPTTEL.
VAN HOLLEN

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UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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